GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1494
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2016
Conservation of Wild Animals
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the international wildlife agencies have provided financial assistance for conservation and protection of wild animals like Tigers, Lions, Elephants in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government proposes to enact stringent laws to stop poaching in the country; and
(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a) and (b) Government of India does not receive any financial assistance for conservation and protection of wild animals like Tigers, Lions, and Elephants from any international wildlife agencies.

(c) and (d) A stringent law, Wild life (Protection) Act, 1972 is in force to empower the State Forest Department to combat poaching and other wildlife related crimes. Steps taken by the Governments in this regard are as follows:

i. A total of 732 Protected Areas, viz., National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves have been created under the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide higher protection to wild fauna and flora covering important wildlife habitats.
ii. Legal protection has been provided to wild animals against hunting and commercial exploitation through the provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.
iii. The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 provides stringent punishment for offences under the Act. The section 51 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides for imprisonment of 3 to 7 years and also fine for offence committed in relation to any animal specified in schedule I or part II of schedule II of the act. The offences in respect of other animals are punishable with imprisonment up to 3 years or with fine or both. Offence relating to core area of a tiger reserve or hunting in tiger reserve or altering boundaries of tiger reserve is punishable with imprisonment for a term of 3-7 years and also a fine of Rs. 50,000 to 2.00 lakh. In the event of a second or subsequent conviction with imprisonment for a term of not less than seven years and also with a fine of 5 to 50 lakh rupees.
iv. The Act also provides for forfeiture of equipment, vehicle or weapon used in committing wildlife offence(s).
v. State Governments with full fledged forest departments and forest protection staff are involved in the protection and conservation of wildlife.
vi. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up to ensure co-ordination among various officers and State Governments in connection with the enforcement of law for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.
vii. Financial assistance is provided to the State/ Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats" , 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for improvement of forest and wildlife areas like the national parks and sanctuaries to provide improved habitats to animals and also for undertaking protection measures.
viii. Information technology for improved surveillance (e-Eye system) using thermal cameras has been launched in Corbett, Ratapani and Kaziranga Tiger Reserves for protection of tigers and other species.

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